## PATENT APPLICATION Q.23W EMARK OFFICE

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<ul> <li>I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with</li> <li>the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL</li> <li>in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner</li> </ul>
for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 03/08/00  Express Label No.: EL409491078US  Signature: F-CLASS.WCM Appr. February 20, 1998
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## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: